

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers. Australian Plant Image Index, Australian Tropical Rainforest key



Fruiting branches. Photographer Mark Hyde, Zimbabwe



Tree. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer M Phillips, Adelaide Botanic Gardens, SA

## Common name

Umbrella tree

## Family

Araliaceae

## Where found

**Forest, woodland**, near habitations, coastal environs, and along streams. Coast and ranges north of Kiama.

Native to central and north Queensland.

## Notes

**Introduced** tree, usually multistemmed, or **shrub**, to 20 m high. Sometimes germinating on other trees and growing as an **epiphyte** until its roots reach the ground. Fruit fleshy. Bark relatively smooth, scaly, with conspicuous leaf-scars when young. Stems hairless, covered with **lenticels**. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, **compound**, usually with 7–16 leaflets, each usually 8–30 cm long, 400–800 mm wide, tips pointed, margins **entire**, surfaces dark green, hairless, leathery. Leaflet stalks 2.5–12 cm long. Saplings often with leaves with only 3 much smaller leaflets. Flowers bisexual, or male and female flowers on the same plant. Flowers pink to red outside, white inside, with 7–18 **petals** each 3–5 mm long. Flowers in headlike clusters 10–20 mm in diameter along a **rachis** to 80 cm long. Fruit dark red to purple, round, 6–12 mm in diameter.

General Biosecurity Duty all NSW. Many areas of native vegetation are protected in Australia. Always check native vegetation requirements before undertaking control of a weedy native plant.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Schefflera~actinophylla> (accessed 6 February, 2021)

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